

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PA-01
ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 /078 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:DCARSON:MEG
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE
PM:SGEIS
EUR/PP:LFUERTH
EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
S/P:PKAPLAN
NSC:GTREVERTON
DOD/ISA:EMCVADON
-----046896 251223Z /53

P 242330Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
INFO CSA
CSAF
CNO WASHDC
USCINCEUR
JCS WASHDC PRIORITY 0611
USMISSION USNATO
CMC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, YO, US

SUBJECT: DEFENSE WORKING GROUP WITH YUGOSLAVIA

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED APPROVAL TO PROPOSE TO THE GOY THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT DEFENSE WORKING GROUP. IF EMBAS-
SY CONCURS WE BELIEVE THAT THE AMBASSADOR SHOULD PRESENT
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THIS PROPOSAL FIRST TO THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND THEN FOLLOW UP WITH THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT
OF NATIONAL DEFENSE.

2. WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:
--THE WORKING GROUP WOULD CREATE A REGULAR FORUM FOR THE
DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL DEFENSE QUESTIONS.

--IT WOULD ESTABLISH REGULAR CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENTS AND BUILD GREATER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEM.

--THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF THE WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRMAN, IN OUR MIND, WOULD BE THAT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (FYI - THE U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN WOULD PROBABLY BE JAMES SIENA).

--THE GROUP WOULD MEET SEMIANNUALLY IN ALTERNATE CAPITALS.

WE PROPOSE THAT THE FIRST MEETING BE IN BELGRADE IN NOVEMBER.

--THE AGENDA, ACCORDING TO OUR SUGGESTIONS, SHOULD INCLUDE PLANS FOR ATTENDANCE AT US SERVICE SCHOOLS, VISITS OF HIGH-LEVEL DEFENSE OFFICIALS, THE STATUS OF ARMS REQUESTS AND RESPONSES, U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISITS, AVOIDANCE OF INCIDENTS AND ANY OTHER ISSUES WHICH MAY BE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE TO BOTH SIDES.

--THE AGENDA WOULD BE AGREED AT LEAST THREE WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF EACH MEETING.

--PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING THE GROUP ARE NOT ANTIC-CONFIDENTIAL

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PATED.

3. IF THE GOY AGREES THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKING GROUP IS DESIRABLE, WE WILL PROPOSE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR DISCUSSION AND SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO PRESENT THIS PROPOSAL TO THE GOY, SINCE THE YUGOSLAVS WOULD HAVE TIME TO FORMULATE THEIR POSITION AND REPLY EITHER BEFORE OR DURING THE VISIT OF GENERAL LJUBICIC TO WASHINGTON. THE INITIAL MEETING IN BELGRADE WOULD PERMIT PROMPT FOLLOW-UP ON THE RESULTS OF THE LJUBICIC VISIT.

5. DEFENSE CONCURS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE186865
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DCARSON:MEG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780304-0842
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780726/aaaaavuq.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0422f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1903830
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEFENSE WORKING GROUP WITH YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: MILI, YO, US
To: BELGRADE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0422f96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014